

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated December 29, 2004. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-19 will remain pending in this application with claims 4, 5, and 8 currently being withdrawn. No new matter has been added as a result of this Amendment.

As an initial matter, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's express indication that claims 15-19 are allowed. Applicants note claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 15 and is thus also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 7, 13, and 14 contain allowable subject matter. While these three claims were objected to, the Examiner indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 13 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, the feature of previous claim 7 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. The remaining claims have all been amended to depend from claims 1, 13, 14, and/or 15 and are thus also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The above-discussed claim amendments results in one independent claim in addition to those for which payment previously has been made. Accordingly, a check in the amount of \$200 accompanies this Amendment.

Also, Applicants further note that previously withdrawn claims 4, 5, and 8 have each been amended to depend from claims 1 and 13-15. Hence, Applicants respectfully request that claims 4, 5, and 8 be rejoined and allowed.

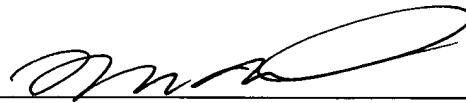
Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding rejections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033216.067.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAM/BLN